

VA Directive 2010-027 contains the VA's policy for appointment scheduling processes and procedures. It contains a checklist with 19 different items, such as ensuring that a patient's desired appointment date is not altered and that the staff have appropriate training.

Importantly, the directive requires each facility to annually certify its full compliance with all 19 items. However, an August 2014 VA Office of Inspector General report uncovered that in May of 2013, a senior VA official waived the certification requirement for FY 2013. This essentially put facilities on the honor system by allowing them to only self-certify. Without this crucial accountability mechanism, bad actors were given free rein to manipulate the wait time data and allow compliance with scheduling practices to deteriorate. Meanwhile, veterans died waiting for appointments while others faced delays in getting the critical care they needed. I am glad that the VA has reinstated the certification requirement, but I am concerned there is nothing stopping them from waiving it again.

H.R. 3956, the VA Scheduling Accountability Act, requires each facility director to annually certify compliance with the scheduling directive, or any successive directive that replaces it, and, most importantly, prohibits any future waivers. In addition, it prohibits the VA from giving bonuses to directors if their facility fails to certify compliance, and it requires the VA to report to Congress a list of facilities not in compliance. This will provide more oversight of the VA, ensure Congress is aware of noncompliant facilities, and end the reckless practice of self-certification.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill and the underlying legislation.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3956, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a plan to hire directors of the medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS WILLIAM "KELLY" LACEY POST OFFICE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 4987) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3957 2nd Avenue in Laurel Hill, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class William 'Kelly' Lacey Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4987

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SERGEANT FIRST CLASS WILLIAM "KELLY" LACEY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3957 2nd Avenue in Laurel Hill, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant First Class William 'Kelly' Lacey Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sergeant First Class William 'Kelly' Lacey Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4987, introduced by Congressman JEFF MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 4987 designates the post office located at 3957 2nd Avenue in Laurel Hill, Florida, as the Sergeant First Class William "Kelly" Lacey Post Office.

Sergeant Kelly Lacey enlisted in the Army on October 16, 2002, and he served with dedication for nearly 12 years. Sergeant Lacey was on a tour of duty in Afghanistan when he was killed in action on January 4, 2014.

During his time in the Army, Sergeant Lacey earned more than 30 military awards and decorations, including a Bronze Star with Valor and two more Bronze Star Medals.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Lacey exemplified leadership throughout his career. Just months before his death, he fulfilled one of his lifelong dreams by reaching the rank of E-7, the same rank that his father achieved in his service.

I urge all Members to honor Lacey's great sacrifice by naming a post office in his honor. I will soon yield to the bill's sponsor, and my friend, Congressman JEFF MILLER, to tell us more about Sergeant First Class William "Kelly" Lacey.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 4987, a bill to designate the facility in Laurel Hill, Florida, as the Sergeant First Class William "Kelly" Lacey Post Office.

Sergeant First Class Lacey is remembered as a wonderful family man by those he leaves behind, particularly his wife, Ashley, daughter, Lily, three stepdaughters, and parents.

Sergeant First Class Kelly's military honor includes three Bronze Stars, including one with valor, a Purple Heart, and a Humanitarian Award for his relief work following Hurricane Katrina.

We should pass this bill to remember Sergeant First Class Lacey's heroic deeds on the battlefield as well as his compassion for others at home.

I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. WALKER.

A little over 2 years ago, northwest Florida and our Nation lost a warrior and a patriot upon the death of Army Sergeant First Class William "Kelly" Lacey. Kelly was assigned to the 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Knox, Kentucky, and was killed on January 4, 2014, in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, while in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Today I stand before you to honor this true American hero by designating the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 3957 2nd Avenue in Laurel Hill, Florida, as the Sergeant First Class William "Kelly" Lacey Post Office.

Kelly had served three tours in Iraq and was completing his second tour in Afghanistan when his life was tragically taken. During the mission that took his life, Kelly protected fellow soldiers during an attack where a car bomb had breached his base perimeter, allowing multiple combatants, many bearing suicide vests, to initiate an assault. Kelly took a guard tower and began providing cover fire, killing three assailants before a rocket-propelled grenade took his life. He was scheduled to return home just 2 weeks from the time of his death.

We must never forget, nor take for granted, the many liberties we enjoy as Americans—liberties earned and fortified by soldiers like Kelly, who never hesitate when called upon. Kelly bravely dedicated his life to protect our freedom. While there is nothing we can do today to bring Kelly back to us and take away the pain that is felt by his loved ones that have been left behind, we can help memorialize his ultimate sacrifice.

America's sovereignty and democracy is deeply rooted in the courageous

acts of our men and women in the Armed Forces, who willingly serve knowing that at any time they could pay the ultimate sacrifice. Renaming the post office will help ensure that future generations forever remember that sacrifice and understand the true cost of freedom.

I ask my colleagues for your support on this legislation.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4987.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIALIST ROSS A. MCGINNIS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 433) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 523 East Railroad Street in Knox, Pennsylvania, as the "Specialist Ross A. McGinnis Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 433

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Ross Andrew McGinnis was born and raised in Knox, Pennsylvania, the son of Tom and Romayne McGinnis.

(2) Specialist McGinnis joined the Army in 2004 and following his training, was assigned to 1st Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

(3) On December 4, 2006, McGinnis was killed in action while serving in Iraq. For his actions that day, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush on June 2, 2008.

(4) From the official Medal of Honor Army Citation:

(A) Private First Class Ross A. McGinnis, United States Army. For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

(B) Private First Class Ross A. McGinnis distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an M2 .50-caliber Machine Gunner, 1st Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, in connection with combat operations against an armed enemy in Adhamiyah, Northeast Baghdad, Iraq, on 4 December 2006.

(C) That afternoon his platoon was conducting combat control operations in an effort to reduce and control sectarian violence in the area. While Private McGinnis was manning the M2 .50-caliber Machine Gun, a fragmentation grenade thrown by an insurgent fell through the gunner's hatch into the vehicle. Reacting quickly, he yelled "gre-

nade," allowing all four members of his crew to prepare for the grenade's blast. Then, rather than leaping from the gunner's hatch to safety, Private McGinnis made the courageous decision to protect his crew. In a selfless act of bravery, in which he was mortally wounded, Private McGinnis covered the live grenade, pinning it between his body and the vehicle and absorbing most of the explosion.

(D) Private McGinnis' gallant action directly saved four men from certain serious injury or death. Private First Class McGinnis' extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

SEC. 2. SPECIALIST ROSS A. MCGINNIS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 523 East Railroad Street in Knox, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Ross A. McGinnis Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Specialist Ross A. McGinnis Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 433, introduced by Congressman GLENN THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 433 designates the post office located at 523 East Railroad Street, in Knox, Pennsylvania, as the Specialist Ross A. McGinnis Memorial Post Office.

This bill honors a remarkably brave soldier and Medal of Honor recipient, Army Specialist Ross McGinnis. This young man's story is one of incredible sacrifice. When enemy combatants launched a grenade into the vehicle occupied by Specialist McGinnis and his fellow soldiers, Specialist McGinnis' reaction was one of inconceivable bravery. He thrust his own body on top of the grenade to save the lives of his comrades.

In a moment I will ask my colleague, Congressman THOMPSON, the sponsor of this bill, to share more about this hero and his incredible story. In the meantime, I want to urge Members to support this bill to name a post office to honor McGinnis' life and his sacrifice.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 433, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 523 Railroad Street in Knox, Pennsylvania, as the Specialist Ross A. McGinnis Memorial Post Office.

There are a number of post offices that we are bringing forward today, recognizing the sacrifice and the commitment of our American citizens to our country. It is noteworthy to put into the RECORD that Ross McGinnis was promoted after death to Specialist and received the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the prestigious Medal of Honor for his heroic actions.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice that Specialist Ross McGinnis made to our country. I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days, people across the Nation will pause on Memorial Day to remember the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice, losing their lives as members of America's Armed Forces.

As a Member of Congress and an Army dad, with my son, Logan, being wounded in Iraq, I know some of the struggles our military families go through every day. I also know how courageous and strong our fighting men and women are, and the bravery of those who did not make it home.

I rise in support of H.R. 433, which re-names the United States Post Office in Knox, Pennsylvania, as the Specialist Ross A. McGinnis Memorial Post Office, a designation which will honor an exceptionally brave young man.

Medal of Honor recipient Ross A. McGinnis was born June 14, 1987, Flag Day, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, the son of Tom and Romayne McGinnis. He was killed in the line of duty on December 4, 2006, while serving in Iraq.

Ross grew up in the community of Knox, located in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. He attended Clarion County Public Schools and was a member of the Boy Scouts, along with participating in basketball, soccer, and Little League Baseball. He was a member of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Knox, and a 2005 graduate of Keystone Junior-Senior High School.

Ross had long wanted to be a soldier, and in 2004, on his 17th birthday, he visited an Army recruiting center and joined the delayed entry program.

Following his initial training, Ross was deployed to eastern Baghdad in August of 2006. He served as an M2 .50-caliber machine gunner in the 1st Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, in support of operations intended to combat an intense insurgency in that region.

On December 4, 2006, McGinnis' platoon was on mounted patrol in